

# News Release



CHURCHILL DOWNS

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **THURSDAY FINALE AT CHURCHILL DOWNS CANCELLED BY INTENSIFIED LIGHTNING**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, June 23, 2016)** – The final race on Thursday's eight-race card at Churchill Downs was cancelled because of intensified lightning in the Louisville metro area.

Thursday's program, which was scheduled to start at 5 p.m. (all times Eastern), was delayed one hour and five minutes when severe thunderstorms rolled through Louisville and Jefferson Country. Once it cleared, racing began at 6:05 p.m. and the first seven races went without a hitch.

Another batch of storms with lightning developed in the area as horses were headed to the starting gate for the eighth race, a \$17,000 maiden claiming event for 3-year-olds and up at 6 ½ furlongs. With the safety of the equine and human athletes in mind, Kentucky Horse Racing Commission stewards, in conjunction with track officials, made the decision to cancel the race at post time.

Cancellations of races at Churchill Downs because of weather conditions are rare. The cancellation of Thursday's finale was the 21<sup>st</sup> in track history and first since a frozen racetrack suspended racing on Nov. 19-20, 2014. This was the first Spring Meet suspension since extreme heat hit Louisville on June 28, 2012.

Racing at Churchill Downs is expected to continue Friday with a nine-race program at 12:45 p.m.

### **Documented Weather-Related Cancellations in Churchill Downs History**

Date	Meet	Races	Races Lost	Reason
June 23, 2016	Spring	After Race 8	1	Lightning
Nov. 20, 2014	Fall	All Races	10	Frozen racetrack
Nov. 19, 2014	Fall	All Races	10	Frozen racetrack
June 28, 2012	Spring	All Races	9	Extreme Heat
June 23, 2011	Spring	All Races	9	Clean-up of damage following June 22 tornado
May 8, 2009	Spring	After Race 5	5	Heavy rain, thunder & lightning
May 30, 2004	Spring	After Race 4	6	Severe weather, tornado warnings
June 6, 1990	Spring	After Race 3	6	Severe weather, tornado warnings
Nov. 13, 1986	Fall	All Races	9	Frozen racetrack
Nov. 24, 1970	Fall	All Races	9	Frozen racetrack
Nov. 23, 1970	Fall	All Races	9	Frozen racetrack
Nov. 17, 1959	Fall	All Races	8	Frozen racetrack
Nov. 4, 1936	Fall	All Races	7	Snow
Sept. 29, 1884	Fall	All Races	n/a	Rain
Sept. 27, 1884	Fall	All Races	n/a	Rain
Sept. 24, 1884	Fall	All Races	n/a	Rain
Oct. 4, 1883	Fall	All Races	n/a	Rain
Oct. 1, 1883	Fall	All Races	n/a	Mud
May 22, 1883	Spring	All Races	n/a	Rain
Sept. 28, 1882	Fall	All Races	n/a	Rain
Sept. 21, 1882	Fall	All Races	n/a	Mud

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